



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 21, 2025

Pope sets Friday as Day to Pray, Fast for Peace in Ukraine, Holy Land



Pope Leo XIV asked Catholics to observe Aug. 22 as a day of prayer and fasting for peace and justice, particularly in Ukraine and in the Holy Land.

At the end of his general audience Aug. 20, the pope noted that the church will celebrate the feast of the Queenship of Mary Aug. 22.

“While our world continues to be wounded by wars in the Holy Land, in Ukraine and in many other regions of the world,” he said, “I ask all the faithful to spend Aug. 22 in fasting and prayer, asking the Lord to grant us peace and justice and to dry the tears of those who suffer because of the armed conflicts underway.”

“May Mary, queen of peace, intercede so that people would find the path of peace,” he prayed.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)



[Click Here to Read
the Full Story](#)

Parishes asked to take up special collection for humanitarian crisis in Gaza

All parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have been asked to take up a special collection for humanitarian aid to Gaza in the coming weeks.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2025-26 inspired by Jubilee Year of Hope



OUR CALL TO SERVE

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Just over a week ago, you likely received a letter from Bishop Bambera inviting you to join us once again by responding to Our Call to Serve.

This year's Catholic Ministries Appeal takes its inspiration from the Jubilee Year of Hope and invites each one of us to join together in helping our sisters and brothers supported by the many Catholic ministries throughout northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal provide financial support to six critical areas of our local Mission.

They help:

- Form our future priests and care for priests who have retired after decades of service to the Diocese of Scranton.
- Proclaim the good news through Catholic Media
- Support Catholic Education in our 19 Diocesan Elementary and High Schools
- Strengthen Parish Life
- Provide critical funding to Catholic Social Services to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless
- Fund Faith Formation and Social Justice Grants awarded to our parishes working to expand the current reach of the Appeal in their local communities.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

More than a grant: How Catholic Ministries Appeal donations empower parish outreach



As the calendar hit mid-August, volunteers at Corpus Christi Parish were hard at work, assembling backpacks filled with essential school supplies for nearly 200 children in the local community.

With assistance from a \$5,000 Social Justice Grant from the Catholic Ministries Appeal, the annual back-to-school drive is helping ease the burden for families while reminding them that the church is present and ready to help them.

“The parish is helping 175 families in the community with backpacks for their children to go back to school,” Beccie June, who works for the Robinson Counseling Center in Wilkes-Barre,

explained. “They’re filled with everything a child could need – from notebooks, pencils, folders, extra paper, scissors, glue – and we also gather toiletries to go back to school with as well.”

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

New school year brings familiar faces to leadership roles at two Catholic schools



As the 2025-2026 school year begins in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System, two Catholic school communities are welcoming new principals – both of whom bring deep roots and a strong commitment to Catholic education.

Jason Tribett has been named the new principal of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre, while Brenda Quatrinni has been appointed to lead Epiphany School in Sayre.

Both leaders are no strangers to the mission of Catholic education. Each has lived it both personally and professionally.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Celebrating 150 years of faith at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church



With prayers of thanksgiving and hearts full of gratitude, parishioners of Christ the King Parish gathered on Aug. 16, 2025,

to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration and dedication of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, returned to his former parish to celebrate the special Mass, a homecoming that stirred memories and pride in the enduring legacy of the church community.

“For 150 years, this church building has been a house of prayer, a gathering spot for the community, and has served as a sign of deep faith here in the Mid Valley,” Rev. Ryan Glenn, pastor of Christ the King Parish, said. “We were thrilled and very blessed to have the Bishop come and preach and celebrate the Eucharist as we commemorated this milestone anniversary.”

The anniversary gave many in the community a chance to reflect on the last century and a half of sacramental life in the church, along with the steadfast faith of a community that has weathered hardships and embraced new beginnings.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

**Catholic advocates push Trump
administration to address religious
worker VISA backlog**



Some immigrant religious workers are facing legal limbo, and Catholic advocates are pushing the Trump administration to address the backlog in their visa category.

Many immigrant religious workers — such as Catholic priests and nuns — legally enter the country on R-1 non-immigrant religious worker visas. These are initially granted for a 30-month period, with one possible renewal allowing for a total of 5 years, so they can be in the U.S. to carry out ministry work. While within that window, they can apply for employment-based EB-4 status so they can legally remain in the U.S. without interruption.

“One of the challenges is that because the number of green cards that are issued every year is not representative of the number of people that are eligible, you’ve got huge backlogs,” Erin Corcoran, an associate teaching professor and executive director of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, told OSV News.

“And this affects these religious workers,” she said.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Pope Leo to make 'digital appearance' at National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)



Pope Leo XIV will have a “real-time digital encounter” with participants attending the National Catholic Youth Conference this fall.

The news was announced Aug. 15 by the annual conference’s host, the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. The Washington-based organization, launched in 1981 with the support of the U.S. bishops, fosters collaboration among the country’s Catholic youth ministry leaders.

During the gathering, which will take place Nov. 20-22 in Indianapolis, the pope will address an expected crowd of 15,000 or so young people ages 14-18.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Burn with 'fire' of God's love, Pope says at Mass and lunch with the poor



Spending the day with the poor, Pope Leo XIV prayed that Catholics would make sure their parishes are welcoming of all people and would be “on fire” with God’s love.

“We are the church of the Lord, a church of the poor – all precious, all active participants, each one bearing a unique word from God,” the pope said Aug. 17 as he celebrated Mass at the

Shrine of Santa Maria della Rotonda in Albano Laziale with about 110 clients and volunteers of the Diocese of Albano's Caritas programs, including people experiencing homelessness and residents of its shelter for families.

“Let us not leave the Lord outside of our churches, our homes or our lives,” the pope said in his homily at the Mass. “Rather, let us welcome him in the poor – and then we will make peace even with our own poverty, the kind we fear and deny when we seek comfort and security at all costs.”

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Six pro-life activists face state charges for abortion clinic 'rescue' near Philadelphia



Six pro-life activists, a majority of them Catholics including two recently pardoned by President Donald Trump, are now facing state charges for a July 31 Red Rose Rescue abortion clinic “rescue” in Upland, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia, that temporarily disrupted its activities.

The protest took place at the Delaware County Women’s Center in the Crozer Chester Medical Center.

The facility does not perform surgical abortions, but provides first trimester medication-based abortions using mifepristone and misoprostol. The two drug-regimen is commonly used in first trimester abortions, as well as some early miscarriage protocols.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Saint Elizabeth Parish to hold SummerFest event on Saturday



St. Elizabeth/St. Mark

SummerFest

Saturday, August 23, 2025

Noon – 7pm

**Bear Creek Community Charter School Pavilion
Chicken Dinner, Live Music, Basket Raffles, 50/50,
Bake Sale, BINGO**

We invite you to support our parishes throughout the summer months as they hold various picnics, bazaars and festivals.

The Diocese of Scranton Communications Office invited all parishes to share details of their upcoming events - and all of the submissions are posted on the Diocese of Scranton website.

If you do not see your local event listed yet, please submit it to info@dioceseofscranton.org.

[Click Here to for the List of 2025 Church Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars](#)

Follow us on Social Media...



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org